claims 1-125: canceled

claims 126-186: canceled

187. (currently amended) A system for supporting management of a business by persons involved therein,

the system comprising:

a processor which has access to a representation of a model of the business, the model including representations of model entities, a given representation of a model entity being capable of simultaneously belonging to hierarchies including a hierarchy and another hierarchy, and the representations of model entities providing access to information relating to the business; and

an interface to the system for a person of the persons, the interface being provided by the processor and the interface receiving first inputs from the person, the processor responding to the first inputs by outputting the representations of the model entities, ~~of~~ the hierarchies, and/or ~~of~~ the information to which the model entities provide access in tangible form and further receiving second inputs from the person to which the processor responds by modifying the representations of the model entities, the hierarchies, and/or the information to which the representations of the model entities provide access.

188. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 187 wherein: the first inputs further include inputs to which the processor responds by sorting the representations of the model entities according to the representations' hierarchy membership.

189. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:

a representation of a model entity includes representations of the information.

190. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 189 wherein:

the first inputs further include inputs to which the processor responds by sorting the representations of the model entities according to values of the included representations of the information.

191. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:

there is a plurality of types of model entities;

a representation of a model entity specifies the represented model entity's type.

192. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:

the model further includes representations of further information that are related to certain of the representations of the model entities;

the processor responds to further inputs of the first inputs by outputting the representations of the further information and receives further inputs of the second inputs to which the processor responds by accessing the related further information.

193. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 192 wherein:

the interface further receives still further inputs of the second inputs to which the processor responds by modifying the further information.

194. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

the further information is a document that is accessible to the system.

195. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

the further information is a message sent to the person by another person.

196. (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 194 wherein:

the further information is a discussion concerning the model entity among the persons.

197. (previously presented) A data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that:

the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer system, implements the system set forth in claim 187.

198. (previously presented). A method of supporting management of a business in a system which includes a processor, the processor having access to a database containing a model of the business, the model including representations of model entities, a given representation of a model entity being capable of simultaneously belonging to hierarchies including a hierarchy and another hierarchy, and the representations of model entities providing access to information relating to the business, the processor providing an interface for one or more users of the system, and the method comprising the steps performed in the system of:

receiving a definition of a model entity belonging to a model of the business from a person involved in the business via the interface and responding thereto by producing a representation of the model entity in the database; and

receiving a first indication of a first hierarchical relationship between the model entity and another model entity belonging to the hierarchy via the interface and responding thereto by using the interface to relate the model entity to the other model entity in the hierarchy and

receiving a second indication of a second hierarchical relationship between the model entity and a third model entity belonging to the other hierarchy via the interface and responding thereto by using the interface to relate the model entity to the third model entity in the other hierarchy.

199. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the step of:

receiving an indication from the person via the interface that one or the other of the hierarchical relationships is to be shown in the interface and responding thereto by showing the indicated relationship in the interface.

200. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein:

the hierarchy and the other hierarchy are different types of hierarchical relationships.

201. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 200 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a third indication from the person via the interface of the type of hierarchical relationship to be used in displaying the model entity in the interface; and

responding thereto by displaying the model entity in the interface using the indicated hierarchical relationship.

202. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 199 wherein:

the indicated hierarchical relationship is shown in the interface by displaying model entities as sorted by the relationship.

203. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein the representation of the model entity includes a representation of information about the business and
the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a third indication of the model entity from the person via the interface;

receiving a fourth indication of the information from the person via the interface; and

responding thereto by producing the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity.

204. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a fifth indication from the person via the interface that the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity is to be displayed; and

responding thereto by showing the indicated information in the interface.

205. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the step of:

receiving a sixth information from the person via the interface that the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity is to be modified; and

responding thereto by permitting the user to modify the information.

206. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the steps of: receiving a sixth indication from the person via the interface that the model entities are to be sorted by values of the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity; and

responding thereto by showing the sorted model entities in the interface.

207. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a third indication from the person via the interface of a model entity;

receiving a fourth indication that further information is to be related to the indicated model entity; and

responding thereto by relating a representation of the further information to the representation of the indicated model entity.

208. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 207 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a fifth indication from the person via the interface that the further information related to the model entity is to be displayed; and

responding thereto by showing the related further information in the interface.

209. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 208 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a sixth indication from the person via the interface that the further information related to the model entity is to be modified; and

responding thereto by modifying the related further information.

210. (previously presented) A data storage device, the data storage device being characterized in that:

the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer system, implements the method set forth in claim 198.